

Council Connection



Upcoming meetings:

- Heritage Preservation Board, 7 p.m. Feb. 8
- Energy & Environment Commission, 7 p.m. Feb. 10
- City Council work session, 5 p.m. Feb. 15
- HRA & City Council, 7 p.m. Feb. 15
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Feb. 17

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We'd like to hear from you ...

If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at www.CityofEdina.com.



A summary of the Feb. 1 Edina City Council & HRA meeting

Council approves four more 2011 street projects

The Council approved four street reconstruction projects.

As part of the Killarney Shores Neighborhood street project, sections of Killarney Lane, Schaefer Road and View Lane will be reconstructed and improvements made to the water main and sanitary and storm sewer systems. The overall project cost is an estimated \$1.013 million. The estimated cost per assessable lot is \$9,740.

McCauley Circle, McCauley Terrace and Post Lane will be reconstructed and improvements made to the water main and sanitary and storm sewer systems during the McCauley Heights Neighborhood project. The project is estimated to cost \$267,400. The estimated assessment for adjacent property owners is \$7,000.

As part of the Oscar Roberts street project, portions of Bristol Circle, Cornelia Drive, Gloucester Drive and Heatherton Circle will be reconstructed and improvements made to the water main and sanitary and storm sewer systems. The project is estimated to cost \$846,200. Special assessments of an estimated \$5,200 per residential equivalent unit would pay for the street portion of the project.

Parts of West 44th Street, Brook Avenue, Browndale Avenue, Coolidge Avenue, France Avenue, Eton Place and Mackey will be reconstructed as part of the West 44th Street project. New concrete curb and gutters will be added, the sidewalk along the northern side of West 44th upgraded, crosswalk and parking bays added at Kojetin Park, a portion of the watermain replaced, and sanitary and storm sewer systems upgraded. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.593 million, which will be paid for with Municipal State Aid System funds from the State, City of Edina utility funds,

City of St. Louis Park utility funds and special assessments. The estimated assessment for adjacent property owners is \$2,152.

The projects are expected to start this spring.

Council approves union contracts for 2010, 2011

The Edina City Council approved contracts with two bargaining units and approved a retroactive increase in non-union employees' payroll at its meeting Feb. 1.

The Council approved three-year contracts for the Public Safety Dispatch and Animal Control/Community Service Officers bargaining units. Dispatchers will receive a 1 percent payroll increase for 2010, 1 percent in 2011 and 2 percent in 2012. The Animal Control Officer will receive a 1 percent payroll increase for 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The Council also approved a 0.5 percent compensation increase for regular full-time non-union employees retroactive to Jan. 1, 2010.

Last month, the Council approved a two-year contract with the Local 49 bargaining unit. Public Works and Park Maintenance staff who belong to the union will receive a 0.5 percent increase for 2010 and a 1 percent increase in 2011.

Payroll adjustments will be made over the next few pay periods.

The City has yet to settle contracts for 2010 and 2011 with Firefighters Local 1275. City Manager Scott Neal will meet with representatives of the union this week to discuss the status of their collective bargaining agreement.

Council denies request for tax-increment financing

The Council decided not to further consider a request for tax-increment financing (TIF) for The Waters Senior Living housing project.

Shelter Corporation, the developer of the project on the Colonial Church site, has requested TIF in order to provide 28 units of affordable housing. The City has established a goal with the Metropolitan Council to provide 138 to 212 units of affordable housing before 2020. It was argued that this project would provide a good start in attempting to meet the Met Council goal.

Council members indicated they would support TIF for some projects, but did not feel The Waters was a good fit.

Council OKs veterans memorial and fundraising

The Council approved an ordinance establishing a memorial for veterans and gave the green light for fundraising efforts.

State law requires cities that intend to construct, equip, maintain, supervise and control a Veterans Memorial must approve an ordinance specifying the intent and location of the memorial.

Four sites were considered for a Veterans Memorial in Edina, but Utley Park at 50th Street and Wooddale Avenue was recommended by the Veterans Memorial Committee and Park Board. The site was chosen because of its visibility, serene space to accommodate private reflection, adequate space for formal ceremonies, accessible parking, shade and access to public restrooms.

The cost to design and build the memorial is not to exceed \$400,000. The City will provide up to \$30,000 for design and engineering. The rest must be raised through private donations. Short Elliott Hendrickson will design and provide professional services for the project. All money must be raised before construction is approved. Donations will be retained in a designated fund of the Edina Community Foundation.